

Illustrating Baseball . . . History

DAVID W. VOIGT

Albright College

In writing *Baseball An Illustrated History*, a single volume history of American baseball scheduled for publication later this year by The Pennsylvania State University Press, the author faced the formidable challenge of obtaining at his own expense over 400 photos and illustrations to be used in adorning the work. The author's experiences in this three-year photo-gathering odyssey are the subject of this baseball symposium presentation and are shared with baseball historians in particular as well as other sports historians.

Because university press publishing contracts require that an author obtain illustrative material at his own expense, prudence inspired resourcefulness in uncovering inexpensive sources which would provide a variety of quality illustrations covering a century and a half of baseball in America. Although the author spent an estimated \$3000 in obtaining photos the expenditure was reasonable in the light of the quality and quantity of images obtained.

In the quest for illustrations, institutional collections and those of individual collectors were uncovered and tapped. In this enterprise the Society for American Baseball Research's extensive network was invaluable in gaining access to materials and in providing leads to other sources. Slides showing samples of photos obtained from institutional collections like those of the baseball teams and of individual libraries, and those from individual collectors like Dennis Goldstein, Mike Andersen, Mike Mumby and John Thorn were used to illustrate the range and variety of photos acquired. Problems, puzzles, controversies and highlights encountered by the author in his odyssey were recalled for the edification of historians facing similar challenges in their work.